

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 ORM-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 INR-05

CIAE-00 FBIE-00 SY-02 DODE-00 SP-02 L-01 VO-01 NSC-05

NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 OES-02 /046 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:TPHDUNLOP:LG

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

H:KJENKINS

O/HA/ORM:SLOWMAN

SCA:AANTIPPAS

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O 101440Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058020

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, RO (FRIEDLANDER, ERWIN)

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN DEFECTOR CASE: ERWIN FRIEDLANDER

REF: FRANKFORT 1708

1. AS BUCHAREST MAY ALREADY HAVE NOTED IN COMMENTING ON
REFTEL REGARDING THE DEFECTION OF ROMANIAN NUCLEAR SCIENTIST
PROFESSOR ERWIN FRIEDLANDER, THERE IS NO DOUBT GOR WILL
TAKE THIS DEFECTION VERY HARD INDEED. AMPLE PRECEDENT
UNFORTUNATELY LEADS US TO EXPECT THAT AT A MINIMUM HE WILL
BE SENTENCED IN ABSENTIA TO A PRISON TERM FOR FAILURE TO
RETURN TO ROMANIA AFTER AN AUTHORIZED TRIP ABROAD. IN VIEW
OF HIS PRIOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, HE COULD ALSO
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BE SENTENCED UNDER ROMANIA'S SEVERE TREASON STATUTES. GOR

WILL CLEARLY BE UNWILLING TO ALLOW PROFESSOR FRIEDLANDER TO RETRIEVE HIS PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL DOCUMENTS AND ESPECIALLY RELUCTANT TO ALLOW HIS WIFE AND CHILD TO JOIN HIM ABROAD.

2. PROFESSOR FRIEDLANDER MAY WELL BE AWARE OF THIS. HOWEVER, LEST HE BE UNDER A FALSE IMPRESSION THAT ONCE ADMITTED TO THE US, THE USG WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO ENSURE RECOVERY OF HIS PERSONAL DOCUMENTS OR A SPEEDY REUNIFICATION OF HIS FAMILY, SUGGEST AMCONGEN FRANKFURT POINT OUT TO HIM THE

DIFFICULTIES HE WILL PROBABLY FACE. YOU MIGHT EMPHASIZE THAT THIS IS TRUE DESPITE OUR POLICY OF SEEKING TO FACILITATE THE REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT EMIGRATION FROM ROMANIA TO THE US HAS IN FACT INCREASED IN THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS. IF ADMITTED TO THE US HE WOULD OF COURSE RECEIVE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE HIS LEGAL STATUS IN THIS COUNTRY ENTITLED HIM TO, BUT OUR EXPERIENCE SUGGESTS THAT IN BEST CASE RPT IN BEST CASE IT COULD BE YEARS BEFORE THERE WAS MUCH CHANCE WIFE AND DAUGHTERS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE ROMANIA. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DEFECTION, SCIENTISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE058020
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TPHDUNLOP:LG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760090-0971
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760375/aaaacntp.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMANIAN DEFECTOR CASE: ERWIN FRIEDLANDER
TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, RO, US, (FRIEDLANDER, ERWIN)
To: FRANKFURT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006